

technologies into under-served rural farmworker and Hispanic communities, and 2) by providing the educational opportunity for at-risk and farmworker students to obtain technology-based skills through PPEP's 13 charter high schools strategically placed in rural areas and inner cities. Through these efforts, PPEP is not only removing barriers of educational and economic inequity by successfully bringing the super information highway infrastructure to rural communities, but also encouraging the use of that highway through education and training.

I applaud PPEP for its dedication to bringing information technologies to rural and small schools in Arizona with the creation of Arizona Educational Network (AzEdNet). This secure network provides an economical link between public and charter school sites and the Arizona Department of Education for the state-required transfer of student data. The unique design of this network saves the taxpayers of Arizona substantial funds while providing fast and secure bandwidth to remote rural areas. This network provides online access to students while protecting them from online predators and unwholesome sites by providing "best efforts" filtering software.

PPEP's educational opportunities are made available through a school system of 13 charter schools. To ensure academic excellence, PPEP has taken a leadership role in creating the Arizona Performance Based Accreditation Program for charter schools. The Arizona Performance Based Accreditation Program has been recognized by the State School Board Association, the Arizona Board of Regents, and the National Office for Charter Schools. With its peer-review system for school accountability, is now a national model for charter school accreditation. In 1998 PPEP was also instrumental in creating the Arizona Regional Resource Center which provides technical support and online consultation for charter schools. These developments have strengthened charter schools as an educational delivery system and have improved the credibility of charter schools. Subsequently, the United States Department of Education selected PPEP to operate the High School Equivalency Program (HEP) for farmworkers through a charter high school. This is the first HEP in the nation funded through a charter school.

Furthermore, PPEP has taken learning beyond the traditional classroom by using emerging technologies to create the migrant farmworker Lap Top Project, "a virtual high school" with self-paced curriculums that have provided the opportunity for some 6,000 rural, at-risk students to obtain technology-based skills since 1996.

I salute this vision to carry rural people forward into the technical diversity of the 21st Century.

A TRIBUTE TO PREBEN MUNCH
NIELSEN

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 4, 2001

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me today in paying tribute to one of the great heroes of World War II—

Preben Munch Nielsen, a Dane who has received little recognition for his heroism. In many ways, he is a symbol of the gallantry and heroism of the Danish people during the tragedy of that war.

Mr. Speaker, as the only survivor of the Holocaust ever elected to the Congress, I want to pay special tribute to Mr. Munch Nielsen and also to the courage and strong commitment to basic human decency of the Danish people, who saved virtually the entire Jewish community of Denmark from the horrifying fate that befell six million Jews in the rest of Nazi-occupied Europe. The Danish people took spontaneous action—at great risk to their own lives—to save the lives of Denmark's Jews. That selfless action established that a people deeply committed to basic human decency can prevail against an overwhelmingly powerful evil force.

In many regards, Preben Munch Nielsen's participation in the saving of Danish Jews is typical of what other Danish citizens did during the horrific period of the Nazi occupation of Denmark. Munch Nielsen was born on June 13, 1926, and was raised in Snekkersten, Denmark, a small fishing village some 25 miles north of Copenhagen. Every day he commuted to Copenhagen, where he attended school with a few Jewish students. Munch Nielsen, however, did not think of them as Jews. As he explained, the Jews in Denmark "were considered neighbors, friends, schoolmates and nothing else."

The Nazi-invasion of Denmark on April 9, 1940, initially brought little change to the lives of Danish Jews. The Danish government and the Danish laws remained in effect ensuring, among other things, that no Jew in Denmark ever had to wear the yellow star. Munch Nielsen joined the resistance movement, helping with the distribution of illegal papers.

On August 29, 1943, the Danish Government resigned under strong pressure from the active Danish anti-Nazi resistance. The Nazi's took over the government and declared Martial Law that very same day. Under the military government, the night of October 1, 1943, was set as the date on which all Jews and communists were to be deported and transferred to concentration camps. On September 28, G.F. Duckwitz, a German diplomat with contacts among the Danish Social Democrats, learned about the deportations that were planned for two days later. He informed the leading Danish Social Democrat, Hans Hedtoft, who quickly passed on the warning to the Jewish community.

Mr. Speaker, the actions of Preben Munch Nielsen were typical of the response of Danes to this effort to exterminate the Jews of Denmark. As Mr. Munch Nielsen said, participating in this effort to save the Jews was "the only way to retain self-respect." He helped guide Jews to hiding places while they were waiting to be taken by boat from harbors and beaches along the Danish coast. He also helped transport Jews on the "illegal" boats and fishing vessels which crossed the straights to the freedom and safety of Sweden, and he aided the fishermen by calming frightened passengers during the crossing.

The results of this heroic effort, Mr. Speaker, were remarkable. Of Denmark's 8,000 Jews, only 475 were caught and deported to the Theresienstadt concentration camp. What began as a spontaneous reaction to human injustice turned into a well-organized under-

ground movement. Upon their return to Denmark, the Jews found their homes and assets in excellent condition. Neighbors and friends cared for their assets and sublet their properties.

As a participant in this remarkable rescue, Preben Munch Nielsen personally was involved in helping to transport nearly 1,400 refugees to Sweden. On a courier mission to Sweden in November 1943 Munch Nielsen was urged by friends of the resistance movement to remain in Sweden because returning to Denmark was too dangerous. In Sweden, he joined the Danish voluntary forces in Sweden ("Den Danske Brigade") and only returned to Denmark in May 1945, when Denmark was liberated from Nazi occupation forces.

After returning to Denmark, Munch Nielsen began working in the import-export business. Only at the age of 59 did he consider a role as a public speaker and educator. After sharing his story with some Jewish travelers to Denmark, he was encouraged by friends to continue to share his personal experience and educate people about the rescue of the Danish Jews in 1943. Now a successful businessman, the head of his own company and the father of three sons, Munch Nielsen tours the world with his wife Sonja, sharing the magnificent story of the rescue of the Danish Jews.

Mr. Speaker, I have the greatest admiration for Preben Munch Nielsen for his courageous participation in helping to save his fellow countrymen at the risk of his own life. I join Munch Nielsen when he says: "That your fellow citizens should be doomed because their human value was considered nothing because of their race is an impossible thought."

A TRIBUTE TO THE EMPLOYEES
OF MCCLELLAN AIR FORCE BASE

HON. DOUG OSE

OF CALIFORNIA

HON. ROBERT T. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 4, 2001

Mr. OSE. Mr. Speaker, we rise in tribute to the outstanding employees of McClellan Air Base. On April 9 and 10, 2001, McClellan will host two events honoring the men and women who have been part of the McClellan workforce for the past 63 years.

McClellan AFB has always been a leader in supporting the defense of the United States of America. In the 5 years since the base closure was announced, numerous awards have been won, and this has been a testament to the abilities and distinction of the men and women of McClellan. Just in the past 3 years, McClellan has won two of former Vice President Al Gore's "Hammer Awards" for improving the way government and the Air Force does business. Base environmental programs, medical programs, financial management programs, and many more individuals and organizations have also been identified as exceptional.

These awards have been won for good reason. The employees of McClellan have continued to distinguish themselves despite the pressures of a pending base closure. The expected turmoil of large-scale reductions in force, vacating facilities and moving equipment